

**Camp Harkness Advisory Committee  
301 Great Neck Road  
Waterford, CT 06385**

Testimony before the Public Health Committee  
in support of Raised Bill No. 6309:  
An Act Concerning Administration of the Department of Developmental Services

Good morning members of the Public Health Committee. I am Stan Soby, Vice President for Community Programs at Oak Hill and Chair of the Camp Harkness Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is statutorily authorized and its volunteer members are appointed by the Governor and Legislative leadership. Its members are Camp Harkness users, family members and constituent representatives. Its charge is to advise the Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services concerning the health, safety and well-being of those who use the Camp's facilities and attend programs there.

I am here supporting the proposed language change in section 8(a) of Raised Bill 6309. The change would allow for a broader choice of representation on the Advisory Committee from a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation established to support and promote Camp Harkness and its programs.

Such a nonprofit is the Camp Harkness Fund, Inc., a Connecticut non-stock corporation, which is currently applying for 501(c)3 status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and whose mission is the enhancement of programs at Camp Harkness. The Fund's directors are Camp users, advocates and community members. The Fund intends to raise money to support the users of and programs at Camp Harkness.

Under the existing language, the Camp Harkness Booster Club has a seat on the Advisory Committee, but there has not been a representative of the Booster Club in attendance at an Advisory Committee meeting nor has it provided services to participants in the Summer Camp programs in a number of years.

Having active, engaged members is vital for the Advisory Committee to fulfill its statutory charge. Approving this language change would benefit the Committee and, most importantly, the Camp Harkness users we represent.